

Application No. 10/529,271

Reply to Office Action

*AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS*

The attached sheet includes changes to the single Figure. As requested by the Examiner, applicant removed the numbering and abbreviation "Fig." from the attached sheet. This new sheet, replaces the original sheet filed on March 25, 2005.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS*

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Action and the search and reasoning reflected therein. In response, Applicants have made the included amendments, and request consideration of the following remarks.

Summarizing the Action, claim 18 was objected to under section 112, in that in line 5, the word "method" is erroneous and should be replaced with "apparatus." Appropriate correction has been made in the included amendments.

The specification was objected to for the use of figure numbering, and a change to eliminate the numbering was requested. Appropriate correction has been made herein via the amendments to the specification and drawing.

Regarding the prior art rejections, claims 12-15, 17-20 and 22 were said to be anticipated by Billet (EP 1 044 915), and claims 12, 13, 16, 18 and 21 were additionally said to be anticipated by Smithe et al. (5,480,085). Applicant firmly believes that neither Billet nor Smithe teaches the elements of the pending claims, and to that end the applicant submits the following detailed explanation of differences between the claimed invention and the cited references.

Before analyzing the references in detail, a short summary of the invention is in order. Claim 12, reproduced below by way of example, shows the essential elements of the invention:

12. A method for controlling a cut register of a web-fed rotary press, the cut register representing placement of cuts on a web, the method comprising:

guiding a web leaving a last printing unit of the rotary press to a cross-cutting device via at least two pulling units with adjustable leads, there being no movable tensioning roller between the at least two pulling units, and wherein the pulling units are independently rotatable from one another and from the cross-cutting device; and

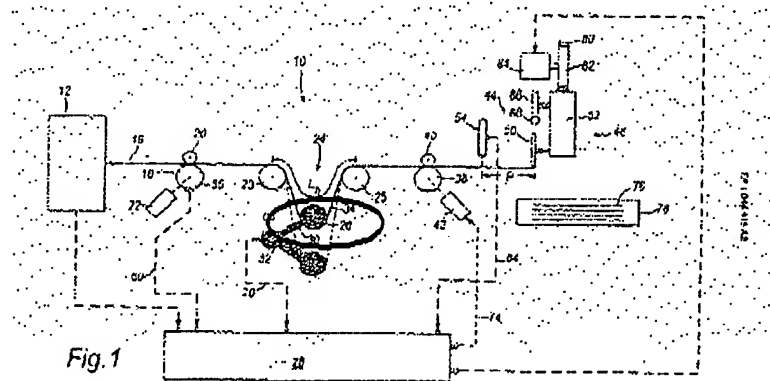
changing a circumferential speed of at least one of the pulling units to adjust the cut register.

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In particular, it can be seen that with respect to the method, the invention includes a crucial step of "changing a circumferential speed of at least one of the pulling units to adjust the cut register." This means that instead of the traditional use of balance rollers and/or idler rollers to adjust the cut register (the web length and tension), the invention employs a new technique that eliminates the need to use such components to adjust the cut register. In particular, the inventor has found that he can control the cut register by controlling the circumferential speed of a pulling unit with an adjustable lead, thus eliminating the need for more complex and cumbersome components and operations. To this end, the claim also recites the path between the pulling units as eliminating the use of a register roll.

With an understanding of the present invention in mind, the references will now be discussed in greater detail. Turning first to the Billet reference, this reference shows the use of a traditional balance roller to adjust the cut register (length, tension). In particular, referring to FIG. 1 of Billet, reproduced below, it can be seen that the balance roller 26 is responsible for controlling the web tension and the web length.



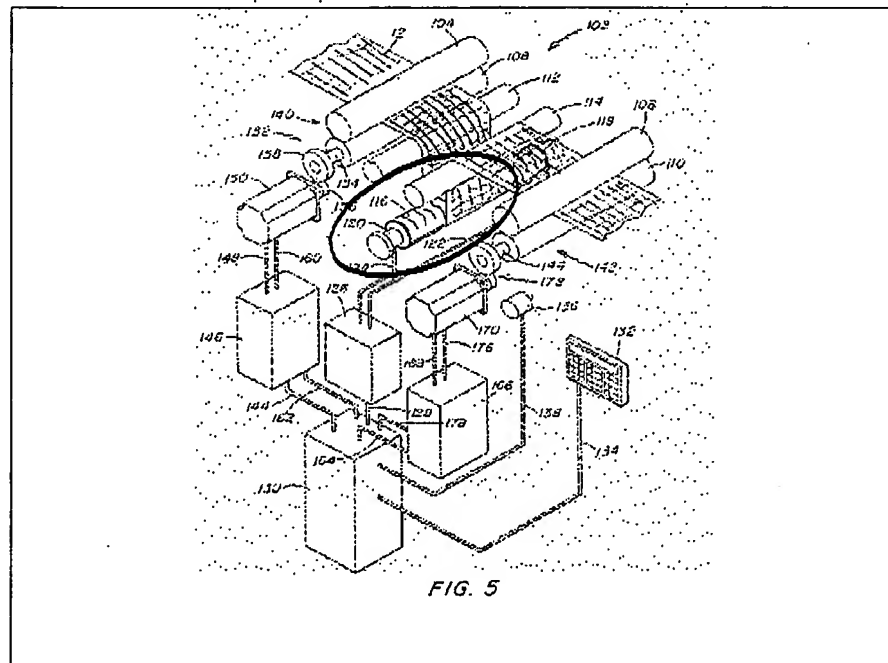
For convenient reference, the balance roller 26 has been circled in the figure. Thus, it can be seen that the Billet reference does not adjust the web length and tension in the manner recited in the claims, but rather employs a traditional balance roller, or tensioning roller.

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Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Billet does not, and cannot, anticipate any claim that requires adjusting the cut register by changing a circumferential speed of at least one of the pulling units, wherein the pulling units lack a tensioning roller there between. Although the action asserts that the illustrated structure of Billet is *capable* of performing the recited method, this assertion is not true with respect to amended claims.

Turning now to the Smithe reference, this reference also uses only a traditional cut register system instead of the recited system. In particular, referring to FIG. 5 of Smithe, reproduced below, it can be seen that the idler roll 116 is responsible for controlling the web tension and the web length.



For convenient reference, the idler roll 116 has been circled in the figure. Thus, it can be seen that the Smithe reference similarly does not adjust the web length and tension in the manner recited in the claims, but rather employs a traditional idler roller. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Smithe, as well, does not, and cannot, anticipate any claim that requires adjusting the cut register by changing a circumferential speed of at least one of the pulling units, wherein the pulling units lack a tensioning roller there between.

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In view of the above, it is apparent that the cited references do not teach or suggest at least one express limitation of each of independent claims 12 and 18, and favorable reconsideration of all pending claims is thus requested.

*Conclusion*

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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